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BRIEFING PAPER FOR THE PRESIDENT'S PRESS CONFERENCE

November 20, 1962

[SUBJECT: Non-Invasion Pledge on Cuba]

QUESTION: Would a "no invasion" assurance mean that our opposition to Castro would cease or ease off considerably?

ANSWER : Not at all. Castro was a major hemisphere problem even before the introduction of Russian offensive weapons into the hemisphere. He remains a major hemisphere problem even after all of the offensive weapons leave. At Punta del Este there was unanimous agreement that Castro-communism in Cuba is "incompatible" with the Inter-American system. This "incompatibility", which was unrelated to the Soviets' introduction of offensive weapons, still exists. This incompatibility need not necessarily be dealt with by invasion. But at the same time a non-invasion assurance would not mean that we would also lift the political and economic measures which were previously imposed in the light of Castro's attitude toward the other nations of this hemisphere.]

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